

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 00656 01 OF 02 071845Z

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /100 W

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P R 311626Z JAN 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2204

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 0656

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, DR

SUBJ: MTN: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATIONS - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

REF: MTN GENEVA 9682 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS (TP) CONSULTATION WITH VISITING GODR DELEGATION, US MTN DEL REVIEWED US TP OFFER AND ENUMERATED CONTRIBUTIONS US IS SEEKING FROM GODR IN TP NEGOTIATIONS. GODR DEL PROPOSED IN DEPTH EVALUATION OF BOTH US OFFER AND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND DID NOT EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO PRINCIPLE OF MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS IN TP GROUP.

END SUMMARY.

2. TP CONSULTATION HELD JANUARY 27 WITH CEDOPEX DIRECTOR ROBERTO MARTINEZ, VISITING GENEVA TO ATTEND MEETING AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 00656 01 OF 02 071845Z

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER; DR. ROBERTO SALADIN ALSO OF CEDOPEX; AND GODR GENEVA AMBASSADOR ALVAREZ. US MTN DEL (CULBERT) REVIEWED STATUS OF MTN AND NEW ADMINISTRATION'S EXPRESSED PRIORITY INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF TP NEGOTIATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. US MTN DEL (KNEPPER, SWAI) THEN PROCEEDED TO DETAILED DISCUSSION

OF US TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER AND SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS.

2. US TP OFFER - US MTN DEL REVIEWED MARCH 1, 1976, US OFFER IN TP GROUP NEGOTIATIONS TO MAKE MFN TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON NEARLY 150 PRODUCTS, NOTING THAT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAD HAD EXPORTS TO THE US OF 45 PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN US OFFER, WITH A 1974 US IMPORT TOTAL OF OVER \$22 MILLION, AND THAT 24 OF THESE PRODUCTS

HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GODR'S TP REQUEST LIST TO THE US. US MTN DEL NOTED GODR SHOULD HVE PARTICULAR INTEREST IN FIVE PRODUCTS ON THE US TP OFFER LIST FOR WHICH THE GODR WAS INELIGIBLE FOR GSP UNDE COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS AS ITS EXPORTS HAD EXCEEDED 50 PERCENT OF US TOTAL IMPORTS; (TSUS 136.00 DASHEENS, US 1974 IMPORTS \$3.2 MILLION; TSUS 145.09 COCONUT MEAT, NSPF, US 1974 IMPORTS \$1.1 MILLION; TSUS 149.15 PLANTAINS, PRESERVED, US 1974 IMPORTS \$0.4 MILLION; TSUS 152.43, FRUIT PASTE AND PULP, US 1976 JANUARY-OCTOBER IMPORTS \$0.1 MILLION.) US MTN DEL NOTED THAT US WAS OFFERING BOUND MFN TARIFF CONCESSIONS WHICH WERE NOT SUBJECT TO CTMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS OF NONPERMANENT GSP UNILATERAL GRANTS. US MTN DEL ALSO HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING TO ITS MARCH 1 OFFER TSUS 147.86, FRESH MANGOES, FOR PERIOD NOV 1 -MARCH 1, NOTING THAT GODR PRESUMABLY HAD EXPORT INTEREST IN THIS PRODUCT. US MTN DEL ALSO NOTED THAT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAD TRADE IN TSUS 137.8540 VEGETABLES FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN, WITH AN EX-OUT OFFERED FOR JICAMAS, WATER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 00656 01 OF 02 071845Z

CHESTNUTS, BREADFRUIT, AND YAMS. US MTN DEL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING WHAT PART OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S 1974 EXPORTS OF \$1.1 MILLION OF TSUS 137.8540 WAS IN THOSE PRODUCTS ON WHICH EX-OUT WASOFFERED, NOTING THAT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAD SUBSTANTIAL EXPORTS OF BREADFRUIT TO THE US.

3. US REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS - US MTN DEL THEN OUTLINED US POSITION ON SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES OF US TP OFFER OF MFN CONCESSIONS, AND PRESENTED GODR DEL WITH CONFIDENTIAL NEGOTIATING LIST OF 14 PRODUCTS PREPEARED BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON WHICH US IS SEEKING GODR TARIFF REDUCTIONS, TARIFF BINDINGS, OR EX-OUTS FOR CREATION OF NEW TARIFF HEADING. US MTN DEL EMPHASIZED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 5 OF TOKYO DECLARATION CONCERNING NONRECIPROCITY, US WAS REQUESTING MUCH LESS THAN IT WAS OFFERING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN THIS NEGOTIATION, AND ASSUMED THAT SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS WERE

IN GODR'S DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS, US MTN DEL NOTED
THAT WHILE ITS LIST OF SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS HAD
BEEN CAREFULLY PREPARED, THAT IT WAS NOT PRESENTED ON
A "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT BASIS" AND THAT WE WOULD WELCOME
RECEIVING GODR COMMENTS AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF THE
VARIOUS ITEMS REQUESTED, AS WELL AS ON ANY OTHER

CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MIGHT BE ABLE
TO MAKE TO THE OVERALL MTN GOAL OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION.
US MTN DEL ALSO NOTED THAT IT WAS HAVING BILATERAL
CONSULTATIONS WITH SEVERAL LDC DELEGATIONS, AND THAT IT
IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT A PACKAGE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE
REACHED LEADING TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT PART OF US TP
OFFER FOR WHICH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

WERE FORTHCOMING. FOR PRODUCTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST
TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO BE INCLUDED IN SUCH
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PAGE 04 MTN GE 00656 01 OF 02 071845Z

POSSIBLE PARTIAL PACKAGE, SOME AGREEMENT ON APPROPRIATE
CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 00656 02 OF 02 311727Z
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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
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FEAE-00 OMB-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 /099 W
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P R 311626Z JAN 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2205
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 0656

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

4. GODR DEL REACTION TO US OFFER AND USGGESTED CONTRIBUTIONS
MARTINEZ SAID CEDOPEX HAD BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR
GATT AND MTN NEGOTIATIONS, AND HE PROPOSED TO CARRY OUT
THESE RESPONSIBILITES SERIOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY. HE
NOTED GODR HOPED TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL OFFICER
TO GENEVA, AND REGRETTED LACK OF ACTION TO DATE BY
GODR IN MTN IN GENERAL AND TP GROUP IN PARTICULAR,
NOTING THAT HIS STAFF HAD HAD SEVERAL INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON WITH STR-
(LANDE). MARTINEZ UNDERTOOK TO HAVE GODR PREPARE
REPORT ON US TP OFFER AND FEASIBILITY OF SUGGESTED
CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING TRADE VALUES, AND TO PRESENT
THIS TO US MTN DEL THROUGH US EMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
(ECONOMIC COUNSELOR BOWEN) AND TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS
AFTER THAT IN SANTO GOMINGO, WASHINGTON, AND GENEVA.
MARTINEZ ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEVERAL
PRODUCTS NOT INCLUDED IN US OFFER LIST, WHICH HAD BEEN
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 00656 02 OF 02 311727Z

ON INITIAL GODR TP REQUEST LIST, AND SAID REPORT WOULD
INCLUDE THESE ITEMS AS WELL. HE NOTED THAT ON A
NUMBER OF THE US ITEMS FOR SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTIINS, SUCH
AS BASIC INGREDIENTS FOR FOOD PREPARATIONS AS VEGETABLE
PROTEINS, HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE IN THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S DEVELOPMENT INTEREST TO NEGOTIATE
CONCESSIONS ON THESE PRODUCTS.

5. MARTINEZ SAID DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EXPORTERS HAD
CONTINUING PROBLEM WITH PUERTO RICAN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS,
INCLUDING INSPECTION FEES AND STANDARD REQUIREMENTS WHICH
HAD BEEN NOTIFIED IN GODR TP REQUEST. (SEE 75 MTN GENEVA
7576). HE NOTED THAT PUERTO RICO NO HAD MONTHLY IMPORT
QUOTAS ON SOME 26 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AGRICULTURAL
EXPORTS. GODR WAS CONSIDERING NOTIFYING THESE
PRACTICES IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GATT AND MTN, SUCH
AS IN THE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES UNDER GROUP
AGRICULTURE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH NOTIFICATION
WULD REQUIRE A "POLITICAL" DECISION, WHICH THE GODR HAD
NOT YET MADE.

6. MARTINEZ OBSERVED THAT GODR WAS CONSIDERING
IMPLEMENTING EXPORT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. HE HAD
RECOMMENDED CONSULTATIONS WITH US EMBASSY
SANTO GOMINGO AND PERHAPS US TREASURY OFFICALS IN
WASHINGTON CONCERNING TYPES OF INCENTIVES THAT MIGHT
NOT LATER RUN AFOUL OF US COUNTERVAILING DUTY LEGISLATION.

7. COMMENT: CONSULTATION WAS CARRIED ON BY MARTINEZ IN EXTREMELY PRAGMATIC AND NONIDEOLOGICAL FASHION, ALTHOUGH IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE HAD HAD LITTLE, IF ANY, PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF DETAILS OF TP NEGOTIATIONS. NEED FOR LDC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR US MFN CONCESSIONS APPEARED TO BE ACCEPTED, AND NO CLAIM WAS RAISED THAT SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ECONOMIC SITUATION. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 00656 02 OF 02 311727Z

PRELIMINARY VIEWS WILL CHANGE WHEN MARTINEZ GAINS GREATER FAMILIARITY WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER. SHOULD MARTINEZ' PRESENT VIEWS PREVAIL IN GODR TRADE POLICY, THEN US MTN DEL BELIEVES THAT THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT GODR MAY MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO TP NEGOTIATIONS. WALKER

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Message Attributes

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